## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Response and the following remarks are intended to fully respond to the Office Action dated March 8, 2005. In that Office Action, claims 1-40 were examined, and all claims were rejected. More specifically, claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C.§ 103(a) as being anticipated by Tanaka et al. (USPN 5,471,399) and Chang et al. (USPN 5,438,729); claims 3, 7, 9-27 and 36-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al., Chang et al. and Calder (USPN 5,949,417; and claims 28-30, 32 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al., Chang et al., Lindhorst et al (USPN 6,337,696); and claims 31, 33 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al., Chang et al., Lindhorst et al. and Calder. Reconsideration of these objections and rejections, as they might apply to the original claims in view of these remarks, is respectfully requested.

In this Response, claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13-16, 19, 26, 28-33, and 36 have been amended; no claims have been canceled; no claims have been added.

## Claim Amendments

Applicants herein amend claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13-16, 19, 26, 28-33, and 36 to more particularly claim the present invention. Specifically, the claims were amended where necessary to particularly claim that the objects are logical objects and that the resources are network resources. Furthermore, the Applicants have further amended the claims to point out that the task information identifies functions performable by the different network resources to change attributes of the first logical object that are managed by the different network resources.

## Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C.§ 103(a) as being anticipated by Tanaka et al. (USPN 5,471,399) and Chang et al. (USPN 5,438,729).

As the Examiner pointed out in the rejection, Tanaka does not teach or disclose logical objects or objects having task information. The Examiner states, however, that Chang "teaches a project specific container having a plurality of subject objects; data objects that are stored within the subjects; and private instances including a subset of the objects within the project container, are selected on the basis of usefulness to the tasks assigned to the a particular user." Applicants

submit that the Examiner has mischaracterized the claimed invention, and in light of the present amendments, that Chang does not disclose displaying logical objects with attribute and task information as now claimed.

Chang is directed at a file management system and environment encapsulated by a "project container." A container encapsulates a single project containing multiple data objects and allows programmers to effectively manage, edit, and control the data objects that together form a single project. (See Chang, col. 5, lines 33-45 "Blank project container 36 includes a plurality of divisions referred to here as subject objects relating to subject headings for different phases and aspects of a software development project. Blank project container 36 may also include data objects such as: help text; function lists to tools for creating standard program modules; and features supporting generation of a control on various user displays resembling a spiral bound notebook including tab division headings and numbered pages.") Based on a user's rights, when a user accesses a container, copies of a subset of objects are created thus limiting the user's access to only those data objects necessary.

The Applicants point out that Chang is an example of a "two-tier system" management system as described in Applicants' BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION. Chang's containers include a predetermined "front end" user interface that limits what functionality a user can have in managing the data objects, although this user interface is modular and may be extended by the container's creator – "a metaprogrammer". (See Chang, col. 5, lines 45-50 "The metaprogrammer 37, in composing a program instance container 40, may supplement the container with additional programming tools such as editors, compilers, debuggers drawn from a library 38 of such tools and/or generate an index pointing to such tools.") Furthermore, Chang must have all the resources previously installed, configured and accessible when the container is composed. See, Chang col. 7, lines 19-25 "The entries in the control table are manipulable by the metaprogrammer.... Availability of compiled or interpreted versions of program is easily ascertained under the type heading.").

Applicants' invention, as now claimed, particularly points out that the task information displayed for a logical object identifies functions performable by the different network resources. These functions change attributes of the logical object that are managed by the different network resources. Furthermore, the attributes of the logical object that are changed by a resource are those attributes that effect that resource's operation. Applicants submit that while Chang edits

data in Chang's data object, that data has no relationship with the editing module as now claimed.

Applicants further submit that Chang does not teach or disclose retrieving this task information at the time of request. In Chang, the functionality of the front end is predetermined when the metaprogrammer first composes the container. Such functionality is not determined upon receipt of the request based on the available resources at the time of the request.

Applicants further point out that in Chang, all the data objects reside in a central location and the container is executed on the client. There is no discussion whatsoever of retrieving task information from different resources on the network. Chang's system is completely self-contained and does not need to poll the network when opening a data object for editing.

As Chang does not teach or disclose these elements of the claimed invention, Applicants believe that claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 8 are allowable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection and find claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 8 and their dependent claims 3, 7, and 9-14 in a condition for allowance. Furthermore, inasmuch as Chang is relied on to find the same elements in claims 15-40, Applicants further submit that these claims are also allowable over Chang in combination with the other cited art.


Claims 3, 7, 9-27 and 36-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al., Chang et al. and Calder (USPN 5,949,417).

As discussed above Applicants' point out that Chang does not teach or disclose the task information or its manner of retrieval as now claimed, nor does Chang teach or disclose retrieving from multiple resources.

Regarding the Examiner's interpretation of Calder, it appears the Examiner is confused that because web browsers are known, then displaying property sheets with a generic web browser must be obvious. However, Applicants point out that the purpose of a web browser, including the web browser taught in Calder, is to display web pages or, as the Examiner states, HTML documents on the user's computer. Applicants, on the other hand, are using a generic web browser to display information about a data object selected by the user wherein that information is in the form of property sheets comprising multiple property pages delivered from different resources on the network.

Applicants first point out that Calder does not teach or disclose simultaneously displaying a property sheets obtained from different resources in response to a request to display information, such as claimed in claims 36-40. Applicants point out that the browser in Calder is limited to displaying only that page whose address is entered in the address bar. While the Applicants agree that, in a series of actions a browser may obtain pages from different resources, Calder's browser does not poll the network for resources with task information associated with an address, it simply retrieves the identified page from that single resource which contains the page.

In addition, Applicants still traverse the Examiner's argument that "Calder teaches that the present invention is very useful in computer application programs, such as browsers" citing col. 5, lines 41-53. The citation provided by the Examiner refers to property sheets of browser applications and has nothing to do with property sheets displayed by a browser. Calder's property sheets are actually displayed by the operating system's property sheet display manager application. Calder discloses only the display of property sheets by an application that is specifically designed to retrieve and display property sheets maintained by the operating system. Calder does not teach or suggest that a generic web browser application could be employed in a method of displaying management information, with or without the use of property sheets.

Regarding claims 7 and 14, Applicants point out that "dynamic task information" is information about dynamic tasks, i.e., information about tasks that may change. Applicants point out that a "dynamic icon" as discussed by the Examiner is actually a static data element that is interpreted by a computer when rendered to create a dynamic display. The underlying data of the icon is static. Therefore, the Applicants submit that the dynamic icons in Calder do not anticipate display of dynamic task information as claimed.

Therefore, for at least the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his rejections of claims 3, 7, 9-27 and 36-40 and find them in a condition for allowance.


Claims 28-30, 32 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al., Chang et al., Lindhorst et al (USPN 6,337,696.).

As discussed above Applicants' point out that Chang does not teach or disclose the task information or its manner of retrieval as now claimed. Applicants further point out that these

elements cannot be found in Lindhorst as Lindhorst is similarly directed to two-tiered a data object management system like that in Chang.

Therefore, for at least the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his rejections of claims 28-30, 32 and 34 and find them in a condition for allowance.


Claims 31, 33 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al., Chang et al., Lindhorst et al. and Calder.

As discussed above Applicants' point out that Chang does not teach or disclose the task information or its manner of retrieval as now claimed in the claims from which these claims depend. Applicants further point out that these elements cannot be found in Tanaka, Lindhorst or Calder alone or taken as a whole.

Therefore, for at least the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his rejections of claims 28-30, 32 and 34 and find them in a condition for allowance.



The Office Action attempts to reach the claimed subject matter by combining references, but does so without any teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so other than applicants' own teachings, which is clearly impermissible by law. See, e.g., *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992); *In re Geiger*, 815 F.2d 686, 688, 2 USPQ2d 1276, 1278 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Applicants submit that there is no teaching or motivation to combine the two-tier data object management system of Chang with the hardware status display system of Tanaka. The purpose of Tanaka is to display physical attributes of physical devices. Such attributes are not controlled by software and cannot be edited without becoming erroneous absent a corresponding physical modification to the hardware device. Thus, there is no teaching or motivation to combine the references as Tanaka does not even allow control of the devices by software.

Applicants reiterate that the cited combination does not teach each limitation of the claimed invention, and moreover, submit that the Office action identifies no teaching, suggestion or motivation to combine the references outside the general contention that the cited combination

would achieve the subject matter recited in the claims. In addition, the Office action does not indicate how the references could be combined to reach applicants' invention, how the combination could be accomplished, or even what might result from such a combination. Indeed, it appears that the Office action, using impermissible hindsight based on applicants' teachings, simply located one reference dealing with physical namespaces, and another reference dealing with a hierarchical representation of information, in a failed attempt to reconstruct applicants' claimed invention.
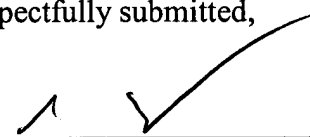
## Conclusion

It is believed that no further fees are due with this Response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment with respect to this patent application to deposit account number 13-2725.

In light of the above remarks, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. Should any additional issues need to be resolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attempt to resolve those issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

George C. Lewis, #53,214
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
303.357.1639

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